

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

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STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1267

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

1. PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER AND VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS GOICO MORALES WERE SWORN IN ON AUGUST 16. IN A ONE HOUR SPEECH FOLLOWING SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, BALAGUER TRACED OUTLINES OF HIS FUTURE DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES.

2. POLITICAL -- THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WOULD BE TO "ASSURE BY 1978 ALTERNABILITY IN THE EXERCISE OF POWER AND THE GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF OUR INSTITUTIONS." CRITICIZING THE OPPOSITION FOR ITS "ABUSE OF THE LIBERTIES OFFERED BY THE CONSTITUTION" HE CALLED ON THEM TO DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATE "IN GOOD FAITH" WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. SHOULD THEY DO SO, THE OPPOSITION COULD ASSURE THE CONDITIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN "TOTALLY FREE" ELECTIONS IN 1978, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF "RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS." ON THE OTHER HAND, A REFUSAL TO DIALOGUE AND ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY WOULD BE "SUICIDAL."

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3. AS PROOF OF HIS SINCERITY, THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED THE FOUR FOLLOWING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESS:

- A) PROHIBITION OF PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION IN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS;
- B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY OVER THE EXPLOITATION OF ALL FOREST LAND IN THE COUNTRY;
- C) PROHIBITION OF THE SALE OF STATE-OWNED LANDS ACQUIRED FOR AGRARIAN REFORM PURPOSES TO PRIVATE PARTIES; AND
- D) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY BASED ON THE UNREMOVABILITY OF JUDGES BY THE CONGRESS. (THIS AMENDMENT WOULD BECOME OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 1976.)

4. TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL AND GENERALLY ACCEPTED TRANSITION OF POWER IN 1978, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD STRIVE TO GIVE HIS ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS A "NEW FACE" AND HE WOULD THUS HAVE TO "DO WITHOUT" THE SERVICES OF MANY OF HIS "OLDEST AND CLOSEST COLLABORATORS. TO REPLACE THEM, HE INVITED "THE BEST ELEMENTS" OF THE COUNTRY TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS WHICH HE WOULD BE OFFERING TO THEM.

5. ECONOMIC POLICY --RESPONDING TO CRITICISMS OF HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES, SPECIFICALLY HIS ALLEGED LACK OF DEVOTION TO DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING, HE INSISTED THAT THE ECONOMIC SUCCESSES OF HIS GOVERNMENT, I.E., INCREASED SUGAR, COCOA AND COFFEE EARNINGS, WERE PROOF THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED A PLAN. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE BUILDING ROADS, SCHOOLS, DAM, AQUEDUCTS, ETC. AND THAT INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, COORDINATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE, WOULD BE A PRIMARY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. ON AGRARIAN REFORM, HE PROMISED THERE WOULD BE NO BACKWARD MOVEMENT.

6. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT HIS THIRD PERIOD WOULD BE DIFFICULT. THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION CAUSED BY WORLDWIDE INFLATION AND MONETARY CRISIS WOULD CALL FOR SACRIFICES BY EVERYONE; ENERGY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSERVED, IMPORTS MIGHT HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED, WATER WOULD BE MORE CONSERVATIVELY USED. THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WOULD HAVE TO CREATE NEWJOBS AND GIVE WAGE INCREASES TO ITS EMPLOYEES, AS WOULD THE PUBLIC SECTOR. THESE SACRIFICES WOULD NOT

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BE POPULAR, BUT THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

7. COMMENT IN SEPTEL.
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